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20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein said infusing or withdrawing step includes the step of infusing fluid into or withdrawing fluid from said blood vessel through said needle, said reservoir, and said original inner catheter while a distal opening of said original inner catheter is positioned outside of said guide catheter.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claims 14-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested.

Restriction/Election

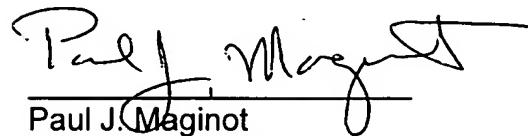
In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the October 3, 2003 Office Action, Applicant restricts examination to the invention of Group II (claims 1-13). Applicant requests that claims 14-20 be withdrawn from further consideration pending a decision regarding the filing of a divisional patent application.

Applicant elects to prosecute the species of Group L (Figures 51-52). All claims 1-13 are readable on this species (Group L). And although none of pending claims 1-13 recites the term "original catheter" or "locking system", Applicant elects group 1 (Figure 3) and group aa (Figure 6) to comply with the requirements set forth in the 10/3/03 Office Action and in case this patent application is somehow amended in this regard.

Conclusion

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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